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Indian Movies, New Documentaries Featured in April Film Series at CMA

CLEVELAND — Four India-themed films — two of them Cleveland premieres — will complement the major exhibition **"Treasury of the World": Jeweled Arts of India in the Age of the Mughals** this April at the Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA). The **India Film Series** will kick off with *Asoka* (2001, Apr.12), about an Indian ruler who transforms from warrior-king to Buddhist. It will be followed by the Cleveland premiere of *Bombay Eunuch* (2001, Apr. 14), an eye-opening exploration of India's secretive subculture of eunuchs; *The Chess Players* (1977, Apr. 17), a little-known comic gem by Satyajit Ray in which two *nawabs* (or nobles) play endless games of chess and a king writes poetry and listens to music while their kingdom falls to the British; and the Cleveland premiere of *ABCD* (1999, Apr. 24), in which a widowed Indian woman living in New Jersey tries to arrange marriages for her two Indian-American children, both young urban professionals.

Five acclaimed new documentaries, all Cleveland premieres, will comprise the documentary series **New Nonfiction**. *Jung (War): In the Land of the Mujaheddin* (2001, Apr. 3 and 7) is an unflinching, cinema-verité look at Afghanistan's civil war between Taliban and Northern Alliance fighters. *Saudade do Futuro* (2001, Apr. 10) focuses on Sao Paulo street musicians — all of them Nordestinos (immigrants from Brazil's drought-stricken northeast). A double feature on Apr. 21 will include *Millay at Steepletop* (1968), about the poet Edna St. Vincent Millay, and *The Man Who Bought Mustique* (2000), about a haughty British aristocrat who bought the Caribbean island of Mustique in 1958 and turned it into a jet-set playground for the rich and famous (from Mick Jagger to Princess Margaret) during the 1960s and '70s. Rounding out April's film offerings will be *Cool and Crazy* (2001, Apr. 26 and Apr. 28), which profiles a 30-member male choir — brought together by brutal weather, a battered economy, and a shortage of available women — in a small, frigid, northern Norwegian fishing village. A rousing favorite at international film festivals, it has been hailed as an Arctic *Buena Vista Social Club*.

Admission to each film is $6 ($4 CMA members). For more information about the CMA and its events, call **1-888-CMA-0033** or visit **www.clevelandart.org**.

Complete April film listings follow.

Indian Film Series

Asoka
Friday, Apr. 12, 6 p.m.
(India, 2001, color, subtitles, 35mm, 173 min.) Directed by Santosh Sivan, with Shah Rukh Khan. One of the major Bollywood films of the past year! This lavish historical epic — bursting with song, dance, and sweeping action — focuses on the Indian ruler who ascended to the throne of Magadha in the third century BC, waged war against neighboring kingdoms, and later renounced violence, converting to Buddhism. Gartner Auditorium.

Bombay Eunuch
Sunday, Apr. 14, 1:30 p.m.
(USA, 2001, color, subtitles, projected video, 71 min.) Directed by Alexandra Shiva, Sean MacDonald, and Michelle Gucovsky. Eye-opening exploration of India's secretive subculture of eunuchs, or *hijras*, who were once revered but now are largely societal outcasts reduced to begging and prostitution. Cleveland premiere. Lecture Hall.

The Chess Players
Wednesday, Apr. 17, 6:45 p.m.
(India, 1977, color, subtitles, 35mm, 129 min.) Directed by Satyajit Ray, with Sanjeev Kumar, Saeed Jaffrey, and Richard Attenborough. In Mughal India, two *nawabs* play endless games of chess and a king writes poetry and listens to music while their kingdom falls to the British. A little-known comic gem from India's most celebrated filmmaker. New print courtesy of the Satyajit Ray Film and Study Center at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Gartner Auditorium.

ABCD
Wednesday, Apr. 24, 7 p.m.
(USA, 1999, color, 35mm, 105 min.) Directed by Krutin Patel, with Madhur Jaffrey. A widowed Indian woman living in New Jersey tries to arrange marriages for her two Indian-American children, both young urban professionals. This sensitive, award-winning drama addresses many of the conflicts and frustrations facing first-generation Indian-Americans. The title initials stand for "American-born confused *desi*." Cleveland premiere. Lecture Hall.

New Nonfiction

Jung (War): In the Land of the Mujaheddin
Wednesday, Apr. 3, 7 p.m.
Sunday, Apr. 7, 1:30 p.m.
(Italy, 2001, color, subtitles, projected video, 114 min.) Directed by Alberto Vendemmiati and Fabrizio Lazzaretti. Shot in a region north of Kabul in 1999 and 2000, this is an unflinching, cinema-verité look at Afghanistan's civil war between Taliban and Northern Alliance fighters. Heartbreaking and unforgettable, the movie zeroes in on an Italian doctor, a British nurse, and an Italian journalist as they try to establish a hospital on the front lines. Cleveland premiere. Lecture Hall.

Saudade do Futuro
Wednesday, Apr. 10, 7 p.m.
(Brazil, 2001, color, subtitles, 35mm, 94 min.) Directed by Cesar Paes. Sao Paulo street musicians — all of them Nordestinos (immigrants from Brazil's drought-stricken northeast) — are profiled in this fascinating study in contrasts: rural life and urban living, tradition and modernity, poverty and wealth, discrimination and acceptance. Cleveland premiere. Gartner Auditorium.

Double Feature!
Millay at Steepletop
Sunday, Apr. 21, 1:30 p.m.
(USA, 1968, b&w/color, projected video, 30 min.) Directed by Kevin Brownlow.
The Man Who Bought Mustique
(Britain/USA, 2000, color, projected video, 78 min.) Directed by Joseph Bullman. Two fascinating portraits. The first captures poet Edna St. Vincent Millay, subject of the bestselling biography *Savage Beauty*, at her upstate New York farm. The second profiles Lord Glenconner (Colin Tennant), a haughty British aristocrat who bought the Caribbean island of Mustique in 1958 and turned it into a jet-set playground for the rich and famous (from Mick Jagger to Princess Margaret) during the 1960s and '70s. Lecture Hall.

Cool and Crazy
Friday, Apr. 26, 7 p.m.
Sunday, Apr. 28, 1:30 p.m.
(Norway, 2001, color, subtitles, 35mm, 105 min.) Directed by Knut Erik Jensen, with the Berlevåg Male Choir. A stupendous success in its native Norway and a rousing favorite at international film festivals, this new music movie — hailed as an Arctic *Buena Vista Social Club* — profiles the 30-member men's choir in the small, frigid, northern Norwegian fishing village of Berlevåg. Brutal weather, a battered economy, and a shortage of available women have prompted these very different men, ranging in age from their 20s to their 90s, to turn to music. They are now Norway's most sought-after musical performers. Cleveland premiere. Lecture Hall.

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